



Security Council

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Letter dated 4 June 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 27 May 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations transmitting the conclusions of the second ministerial meeting of the coordination platform for the Sahel (see annex), which was held on 16 May 2014 in Bamako.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) **BAN Ki-moon**

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Annex

[Original: French]

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for information, the conclusions of the second ministerial meeting of the coordination platform on strategies for the Sahel, held in Bamako on 16 May 2014 (see enclosure).

I should be grateful if you would have this document circulated to the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sékou **Kassé**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Enclosure

[Original: French]

Conclusions**Second ministerial meeting of the coordination platform on strategies for the Sahel**

[Bamako, 16 May 2014]

1. The Government of the Republic of Mali, in its capacity as Chair of the coordination platform on strategies for the Sahel, hosted the second ministerial meeting of the platform in Bamako on 16 May 2014. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Abdoulaye Diop, Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Integration and International Cooperation of the Republic of Mali.
2. At the opening ceremony, statements were made by Mr. Pierre Buyoya, High Representative of the African Union for Mali and the Sahel; Ms. Hiroute Guebre Sellassie, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Sahel; and Mr. Abdoulaye Diop.
3. Participating in the meeting were the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guinea and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, a Minister of State of the Sudan, the Malian Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, and other senior officials of countries in the Sahelo-Saharan region and other States, and of subregional, regional and international organizations, including financial institutions. Also attending were Mr. Ibrahim Bocar Ba, Commissioner for Macroeconomic Policy of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and Mr. Peteris Ustubs, Director for West and Central Africa and Sahel Coordinator of the European External Action Service.
4. The meeting provided an opportunity for the participants to review developments in the Sahel region since the first meeting of the platform, held in Bamako on 5 November 2013, and to hold fruitful discussions on the various strategies and initiatives for the Sahel. The participants hailed the progress and efforts made by Mali in the context of the peace and dialogue process, including the recent appointment by President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita of the former Prime Minister, Mr. Modibo Keita, as High Representative to the inclusive talks. They expressed the hope that a formal framework for holding the inclusive talks in Mali called for in the Preliminary Agreement signed in Ouagadougou on 18 June 2013 would be established as soon as possible, with support from the international community.
5. The participants reiterated their concern about persistent challenges to peace and security in Mali and in the Sahel region as a whole. In that connection, they strongly condemned the inhuman criminal act perpetrated by the terrorist movement Boko Haram involving the abduction, in April 2014, of more than 200 female secondary school students in the town of Chibok in north-eastern Nigeria, and expressed their sympathy and solidarity with the victims' families and with the Government and people of Nigeria.

6. The participants welcomed the international community's strong engagement and good intentions with respect to the countries and populations of the Sahelo-Saharan region, and reiterated their commitment to promoting effective cooperation for achieving greater coherence among the various strategies and initiatives of regional and international organizations.
7. After reviewing the draft road map submitted by Mali in its capacity as Chair and the report on the activities of the technical secretariat, the participants approved both documents and commended the Chair and the technical secretariat for their outstanding work. They encouraged the Chair and the technical secretariat to deepen that coordination further, with support from all partners concerned. In that regard, they invited the States of the Sahel region to designate focal points to liaise with the technical secretariat.
8. The participants were briefed by the Mauritanian Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation on the "Sahel Group of Five" initiative, and commended the countries concerned (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger) for that undertaking, which represented a strong sign of cooperation and ownership of regional projects. They encouraged the countries concerned to work closely with the coordination platform and its technical secretariat.
9. The meeting welcomed the progress made in implementing the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, which included proposals for regional projects, developed in consultation with regional and international organizations, and national projects, developed in close cooperation with the countries of the region, that reflected the priorities identified in the United Nations strategy and agreed upon by consensus at the first ministerial meeting of the coordination platform in Bamako, namely governance, security and resilience.
10. The meeting also reviewed the Nouakchott Process, which had been initiated by the African Union in 2013 and formed a part of the security pillar of the African Union strategy for the Sahel region. The Nouakchott Process was aimed at facilitating the enhancement of security cooperation between countries of the Sahel and the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture in the region. The participants commended the African Union Commission and described the Nouakchott Process as a promising mechanism for cooperation in the region with a view to combating terrorism and other forms of organized crime. In particular, it drew attention to the plans to establish joint patrols and units along the borders. Participants called on the States concerned to take ownership of the process and the relevant initiatives.
11. The participants welcomed the ECOWAS strategy, which was being finalized. In addition to the pillars referred to above, in particular resilience, food security and security, the ECOWAS strategy sought to improve infrastructure and the education sector. Participants endorsed the ECOWAS appeal for the mobilization of international aid for security in the Sahel region.
12. The participants commended the European Union for convening a high-level meeting on the Sahel in Brussels on 6 February 2014 and for its ongoing efforts to support the countries and peoples of the Sahel. The meeting noted that the European Union strategy for the Sahel had been extended to Burkina Faso and Chad.

13. The meeting congratulated Ms. Hiroute Guebre Sellassie on her recent appointment as Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel and wished her every success in her mission.

14. The participants noted the efforts of financial institutions to provide financing in the Sahel. The World Bank had provided \$1.5 billion for country-driven programmes and projects, \$300 million to support the private sector and \$585 million as guarantee funds for various investments. An additional \$900 million had already been allocated to projects that had been approved or were being formulated. The African Development Bank had announced a further \$250 million in funding for a project to strengthen food security and resilience in the Sahel, which would be approved by the end of 2014. Participants welcomed those commitments and encouraged the stakeholders to continue their efforts in that area. They noted and welcomed the commitment of Japan to the countries of the Sahel.

15. The participants commended the technical secretariat for its mapping work and requested it to compile, for introduction and discussion at the forthcoming meeting of the platform, a detailed comparative analysis of gaps and overlaps in regional and international strategies for the Sahel. They also requested it to define more precisely the responsibilities of the platform and its role as compared with other initiatives, particularly the Sahel Group of Five.

16. The participants expressed their deep gratitude to the authorities and people of Mali for their warm welcome to all delegations and the facilities provided for the successful convening of the meeting. They agreed to meet again in six months, with Mali serving as Chair, at a date to be determined through consultations.